

STORET Conference Call – February 1, 2007, 12:00-1:00 PM Eastern Time

Introduction (Kristen Gunthardt)

- The minutes from all previous conference calls are available over the web: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/confcalls.html>
- The next scheduled call will be March 2007. The exact date will be emailed via the listserver later this month.
- Please email storet@epa.gov and let EPA know you have attended the call so that meeting rosters may be kept.
- If you have a special topic you'd like to lead for an upcoming call, please email Gunthardt.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov
- EPA would like to hear comments you have on the quality of these conference calls. Please send them to storet@epa.gov
- Please subscribe to the STORET automated listserver for announcements regarding conference calls: <http://www.epa.gov/storet/listserv.html>

The STORET Team welcomes Randy Hill

- Please welcome Randy Hill, the newest member of the STORET team and the STORET program manager.

2007 STORET WQX Users Conference

- The 2007 STORET/WQX Users Conference will tentatively be held in Austin, TX the last week of November 2007. Please email the STORET team with any suggestions or comments on the anticipated date and location.

Jim Hudson (WI)

- As a part of testing WQX, Wisconsin DNR was able to send all 10,000 projects, 20,000 locations a sample of approximately 20,000 activities and 40,000 results through the Exchange Network to WQX. During the process, we identified areas where the mapping between our data and the WQX schema and domain values needed some fixes. The most important tips we learned included using the flow configuration document for the names of the various services and having a decent node client.

Water Quality Exchange (WQX)

- State partners are currently testing the WQX system. Although there have been some updates and fixes, WQX services appear to be working correctly.
- The WQX release date for physical/chemical data submissions is scheduled for February 15, 2007.
- We've developed stylesheets to aid users in incorporating business rule and system rules.
- To use WQX, the user will have to create XML files, get a user account with CDX, let the STORET team know that you want to be set up to submit data to WQX, and send data through the CDX.
- The Future of STORET webpage is anticipated to change. Please check the web site often for the new look: www.epa.gov/storet/wqx.html.
- The final WQX Schema is now available on the exchange network at www.exchangenetwork.com. This schema incorporates the latest system and business rules updates.
- We have successfully been able to query, solicit, and load data using WQX. The loading rate is about 49 results/sec, approximately 4x faster than SIM with the largest file we could create – 350,000 records. It is anticipated that once WQX is deployed on our servers, loading rates may increase.

Updates to the Warehouse

- A warehouse update will occur in late February.
- The warehouse update will include a watershed summary report which allows the user to query all of the organization IDs, stations, and types of data available and period of record for a watershed. Watershed information will be based on the 8 digit HUC, which is an optional field capable of being autogenerated based on the latitude and longitude. No information will be overwritten if the state has already populated the field.
- Also included in the warehouse updates will be the ability to query data by station type (e.g., estuarine data). Currently users must supply specific stations when pulling results by station. This capability, along with new metadata and method summary reports, will be available this spring.

STORET and USGS coordination update

- USGS and the STORET team have begun meeting regularly to discuss the coordination between substances and characteristics as well as other cross-agency coordination.

Q and A

- Q: How do we become a pilot partner for biological schema? (TX)
- A: A list of data elements are in the review process. Once the beginning schema has been put together, probably in March, we will be looking for pilot partners. Please check back then. MD MDE and WI would also like to be part of the pilot project.
- Q: We applied for an exchange grant. Do you know when we will hear back as to the results? (WI)
- A: We completed the review process and final results will be released in the summer timeframe. Please continue to check the Exchange Network website for more information.
- Q: Is it possible that the HUC autogeneration process might be more accurate than allowing users to update HUCs by data entry method? (OR DEQ)
- A: The current process will allow for the autogeneration process to act as a quality control method for users which have entered HUC information. In some cases, the HUCs may be more reliable than the latitude and longitude information provided. In this case, the user-provided HUC would be more accurate.
- Q: When will the SIM 202 bug fix be available for large record uploads? (Mike Matz, NPS)
- A: Over the last few months, the priority has been WQX. We can look into include this fix in the next warehouse update in May. Thank you for your patience.
- Q: Would it be possible to hold a WQX regional coordinators meeting sometime in the spring to aid in the user community's transition process? (Eric Wilson, R9)
- A: We will look into coordinating such a meeting with the regional monitoring conference or possibly a separate meeting in DC sometime in the late spring.
- Q: Do you know why the drinking water schema is so different from the WQX schema? The system appears to correspond more closely with the Facilities Registry system. (Paul Morton, NJ)
- A: We can investigate the differences although it is likely that they are not using ESAR standards.
- Q: Is there a web site that I can look for general substance names for corresponding characteristics? (Dave Ihrie, NE)
- A: Please check the Substance Registry System web site at www.epa.gov/srs.

Participants on call (based on who emailed storet@epa.gov)

Eric Wilson	EPA Region 9
Roger Stewart	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jolene McQuillan	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
John Beebe	NCASI
Linda Cartwright	TN DEC
Paul Mooney	Acclaim Systems, Inc.
Jennifer Schimek	RTI International
Deb Soule	New Hampshire DES
Jim Porter	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jeffrey White	Tetra Tech
Stephen Hale	EPA Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
Thomas Dallaire	MassDEP
James Hileman	EPA R10
Bruce Tuttle	Idaho Dept of Water Resources
Mike Matz	National Park Service
James F. Hudson	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
MaryAnn Silagy	Ohio EPA - Div. of Surface Water
Curtis Cude	OR DEQ
Andrea Thomas	NC DWQ
Julie Zimmerman	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jeff Townsend	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Terry Frohm	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Vilma Quant	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Adam McMillan	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Lisa Schwenning	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Mike Henebry	Illinois
Larry Merrill	EPA R3
Grace Hanrahan	EPA R3